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The Romanov Dynasty

The Romanov Dynasty, also known as the House of Romanov, was the reigning imperial house of Russia from 1613 until the Russian Revolution in 1917. Here’s an overview of their history and significance:

Founding and Early Years

- **Michael I:** The dynasty began with Michael Romanov, who was elected as tsar in 1613, ending the Time of Troubles, a period of political instability and foreign invasion.

- **Peter the Great:** Michael's grandson, Peter I (Peter the Great), transformed Russia into a major European power through extensive reforms and military campaigns. He declared himself Emperor of Russia in 1721.

Golden Age

- **Catherine the Great:** Catherine II, also known as Catherine the Great, ruled from 1762 to 1796. Her reign is often considered the Golden Age of the Russian Empire, marked by territorial expansion, cultural development, and the adoption of Western European philosophies.

Decline and Fall

- **Nicholas II:** The last Romanov emperor, Nicholas II, ruled from 1894 until his abdication in 1917. His reign was marked by political and social unrest, including the Russo-Japanese War, the 1905 Revolution, and World War I.

- **Russian Revolution:** The Romanov Dynasty ended with the Russian Revolution of 1917. Nicholas II and his family were executed by Bolshevik revolutionaries in 1918.

Legacy

- The Romanovs left a lasting impact on Russian history, culture, and politics. Their rule saw the transformation of Russia from a medieval state to a major European empire.